

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Please amend the Abstract by rewriting same to read as follows.

~~The present invention aims at providing efficient bus arbitration.~~ Counters A bus arbitration system employs counters respectively provided for an encoding section and an decoding section that are started when there is ~~input of a~~ request signal from the respective encoding section and decoding section. The counter values are outputted to respective comparators that compare the counter values with predetermined values ~~to then~~ output and the result results of comparison the comparisons are fed to an arbitration controller. The arbitration controller in turn determines priority ~~ranks~~ rankings for the encoding section and the decoding section based on the signals inputted from the comparators and outputs an acknowledgement signal to the module that has the highest priority. ~~The present invention may be applied to LSI's.~~